

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1045 - SB 1144

February 17, 2023

SUMMARY OF BILL: Authorizes qualified voters to declare an affiliation with a statewide political party or register as unaffiliated, and states that any voter who does not declare their party affiliation will automatically be deemed unaffiliated. Requires any qualified voter who wishes to alter their political party affiliation to do so at least 29 days prior to an election. Requires a voter who wishes to vote in a primary election to have their political party affiliation recorded on their permanent record. Permits political parties to allow unaffiliated voters to participate in their primary elections.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – \$40,000/FY23-24

Increase Local Expenditures – \$103,100/FY23-24*

Assumptions:

- According to the Secretary of State's (SOS) Division of Elections, a field indicating a voter's declared party affiliation will be added to the statewide voter registration database.
- In order to add party affiliation to the state voter registration database, it would take the entity contracted by the SOS approximately 50 hours, at a cost of \$90 per hour, for a total increase in state expenditures of \$4,500 (\$90 x 50 hours) in FY23-24.
- The updating of online voter registration forms will be performed by the Division of Election's online voter registration vendor and will result in a one-time increase in state expenditures of \$25,000 in FY23-24.
- The Coordinator of Elections would be responsible for reprinting and distributing new voter registration applications to each county election commission, which is estimated to result in a one-time increase in state expenditures of \$10,500 in FY23-24.
- Therefore, the total increase in state expenditures as a result of the proposed legislation will be \$40,000 (\$4,500 + \$25,000 + \$10,500) in FY23-24.
- County election commissions will be required to update their voter registration records. While the majority of counties can accomplish this within existing resources, three counties will incur a mandatory one-time increase in local expenditures associated with this update: Knox County will have a one-time increase in expenditures of \$1,500 in FY23-24, Davidson County will have a one-time increase in expenditures of \$15,575 in FY23-24, and Shelby County will have a one-time increase in expenditures of \$86,000

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in FY23-24. However, in order to implement this update, it will require a one-time increase in expenditures in FY23-24 of \$1,500 from the Knox County Election Commission, of \$15,575 from the Davidson County Election Commission, and of \$86,000 from the Shelby County Election Commission.

- Therefore, the total mandatory increase in local expenditures will be \$103,075 (\$1,500 + \$15,575 + \$86,000) in FY23-24.

**Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/cd